

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gaming apparatus, comprising:
  - a housing comprising a first opening, a second opening, and one or more light sources positioned around said second opening;
  - 5 a display unit positioned relative to said housing so that a first portion of said display unit is visible through said first opening of said housing and so that a second portion of said display unit is visible through said second opening of said housing;
  - a value input device;
  - 10 a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said value input device and said one or more light sources around said second opening, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,
    - said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to
    - 15 generate a first display on said first portion of said display unit relating to one of the following games: poker, blackjack, slots, keno or bingo,
    - said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a second display on said second portion of said display unit,
    - said controller being programmed to cause said one or more
    - 20 light sources around said second opening to emit light when said second display is generated on said second portion of said display unit, and
    - said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game.
- 25 2. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said display unit comprises a video display unit that is capable of generating video images.
3. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 2,
  - wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of at least five playing cards to be displayed if said game comprises video
  - 30 poker,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of simulated slot machine reels to be displayed if said game comprises video slots,

5 wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of playing cards to be displayed if said game comprises video blackjack,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of keno numbers to be displayed if said game comprises video keno,

10 wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a bingo grid to be displayed if said game comprises video bingo.

4. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said display unit comprises at least one mechanical slot machine reel.

5. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1,  
15 wherein said housing comprises one or more moveable panels arranged to cover said second portion of said display unit,

wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said one or more moveable panels,

20 wherein said controller is programmed to open said one or more moveable panels to reveal said second portion of said display unit when said second display is generated.

6. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1,  
wherein said housing comprises a bezel positioned around said second opening, said bezel having a first portion coupled to said housing and a second portion rotatably coupled to said first portion,  
25

wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said second portion of said bezel,

30 wherein said controller is programmed to cause said second portion of said bezel to rotate relative to said first portion of said bezel when said second display is generated.

7. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein said bezel

comprises said one or more light sources around said second opening.

8. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said controller is programmed to cause said display unit to generate a second display on said second portion of said display unit, said second display relating to one of the following: a  
5 bonus game, a payout table, gaming information, game instructions or an attraction sequence.

9. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said one or more light sources around said second opening comprise one of the following: one or more neon gas lamps, one or more florescent light, one or more incandescent lights or one  
10 or more light emitting diodes.

10. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1,  
wherein said housing further comprises one or more light sources positioned around said first opening,  
wherein said controller is programmed to cause said one or more light sources  
15 around said first opening to emit light when said first display is generated on said first portion of said display unit.

11. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a main housing portion and a panel coupled to said main housing portion.

12. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 11, wherein said panel is  
20 removably coupled to said main housing portion.

13. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein a transparent material is disposed over at least one of said openings in said housing.

14. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said display unit comprises a flat panel display unit.

15. A gaming system comprising a plurality of gaming apparatuses as  
25 defined in claim 1, said gaming apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of gaming apparatuses.

16. A gaming system as defined in claim 15, wherein said gaming

apparatuses are interconnected via the Internet.

17. A gaming apparatus, comprising:

a housing comprising a first opening, one or more light sources positioned around said first opening, and a second opening;

5 a first display unit;

a second display unit positioned relative to said housing so that a first portion of said second display unit is visible through said first opening of said housing and so that a second portion of said second display unit is visible through said second opening of said housing;

10 a value input device;

a controller operatively coupled to said first and second display units, said value input device, and said one or more light sources around said first opening, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

15 said controller being programmed to cause said first display unit to generate a first display relating to one of the following games: poker, blackjack, slots, keno or bingo,

20 said controller being programmed to cause said second display unit to generate a second display on said first portion of said second display unit,

said controller being programmed to cause said second display unit to generate a third display on said second portion of said second display unit,

25 said controller being programmed to cause said one or more light sources around said first opening to emit light when said second display is generated on said first portion of said second display unit, and

said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game.

30 18. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17,

wherein said housing comprises one or more moveable panels arranged to cover said first portion of said second display unit,

wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said one or more moveable panels,

wherein said controller is programmed to open said one or more moveable panels to reveal said first portion of said second display unit when said second display is generated.

19. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17,

wherein said housing comprises a bezel positioned around said first opening of said second display unit, said bezel having a first portion coupled to said housing and a second portion rotatably coupled to said first portion,

wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said second portion of said bezel,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause said second portion of said bezel to rotate relative to said first portion of said bezel when said second display is generated.

20. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 19, wherein said bezel comprises said one or more light sources around said first opening.

21. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein said controller is programmed to cause said second display unit to generate a second display on said first portion of said second display unit, said second display relating to one of the following: a bonus game, a payout table, gaming information, game instructions or an attraction sequence.

22. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein said one or more light sources around said first opening comprise one of the following: one or more neon gas lamps, one or more florescent light, one or more incandescent lights or one or more light emitting diodes.

23. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17,

wherein said housing comprises a second opening having one or more light sources positioned around said second opening,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause said light sources around said second opening to emit light when said third display is generated on said second portion of said second display unit.

24. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein said housing comprises a main housing portion and a panel coupled to said main housing portion.

25. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 24, wherein said panel is removably coupled to said main housing portion.

5           26. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein a transparent material is disposed over at least one of said openings in said housing.

27. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein at least one of said first and second display units comprises a flat panel display unit.

10           28. A gaming system comprising a plurality of gaming apparatuses as defined in claim 17, said gaming apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of gaming apparatuses.

29. A gaming apparatus, comprising:

a display unit;

15           a housing comprising an opening, one or more light sources positioned around said opening, and one or more moveable panels covering said display unit, wherein said housing is positioned so that a portion of said display unit is visible through said opening when said one or more moveable panels are opened;

an value input device;

20           a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said value input device, said one or more light sources and said one or more moveable panels, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

25           said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a display on said visible portion of said display unit relating to a game,

            said controller being programmed to cause said one or more moveable panels to open to reveal said visible portion of said display unit when said display is generated,

30           said controller being programmed to cause said one or more light sources to emit light when said display is generated, and

said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said game.

30. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 29,  
wherein said housing comprises a bezel positioned around said opening, said  
5 bezel having a first portion coupled to said housing and a second portion rotatably  
coupled to said first portion,  
wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said second portion of said  
bezel,  
wherein said controller is programmed to cause said second portion of said  
10 bezel to rotate relative to said first portion of said bezel when said display is  
generated.

31. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 30, wherein said bezel  
comprises said one or more light sources.

32. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 29, wherein said controller is  
15 programmed to cause said display unit to generate a display on said visible portion of  
said display unit, said display relating to one of the following: a poker game, a  
blackjack game, a slots game, a keno game, a bingo game, a bonus game, a payout  
table, gaming information, game instructions or an attraction sequence.

33. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 29, wherein said one or more  
20 light sources comprise one of the following: one or more neon gas lamps, one or more  
florescent light, one or more incandescent lights or one or more light emitting diodes.

34. A gaming apparatus, comprising:  
a housing comprising a first opening, a second opening and one or  
more light sources positioned around said second opening;  
25 a display unit positioned relative to said housing so that a first portion  
of said display unit is visible through said first opening of said housing and so  
that a second portion of said display unit is visible through said second  
opening of said housing;  
a value input device;  
30 a controller operatively coupled to said display unit, said value input  
device and said one or more light sources positioned around said second

opening, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

said controller being programmed to receive data representing a payline selection made by a player,

5                   said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a first game display on said first portion of said display unit, said first game display comprising images of a plurality of slot machine symbols each of which is associated with a respective slot machine reel,

10                   said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a second game display on said second portion of said display unit,

                  said controller being programmed to cause said one or more light sources around said second opening to emit light when said  
15                   second game display is generated on said second portion of said display unit, and

                  said controller being programmed to determine a value payout associated with an outcome of said slots game, said controller being  
20                   programmed to determine said outcome of said slots game based on a configuration of said slot machine symbols.

35.    A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said display unit comprises a video display unit that is capable of generating video images.

36.    A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 35, wherein said controller is  
25           programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of simulated slot machine reels to be displayed on said display unit.

37.    A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said display unit comprises at least one mechanical slot machine reel.

38.    A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said controller is  
30           programmed to receive payline data representing a number of paylines selected by the player.

39.    A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34,



wherein said housing comprises one or more moveable panels arranged to cover said second portion of said display unit,

wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said one or more moveable panels,

5 wherein said controller is programmed to open said one or more moveable panels to reveal said second portion of said display unit when said second display is generated.

40. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34,

10 wherein said housing comprises a bezel positioned around said second opening, said bezel having a first portion coupled to said housing and a second portion rotatably coupled to said first portion,

wherein said controller is operatively coupled to said second portion of said bezel,

15 wherein said controller is programmed to cause said second portion of said bezel to rotate relative to said first portion of said bezel when said second display is generated.

41. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 40, wherein said bezel comprises said one or more light sources around said second opening.

20 42. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said controller is programmed to cause said display unit to generate a second display on said second portion of said display unit, said second display relating to one of the following: a bonus game, a payout table, gaming information, game instructions or an attraction sequence.

25 43. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said one or more light sources around said second opening comprise one of the following: one or more neon gas lamps, one or more florescent light, one or more incandescent lights or one or more light emitting diodes.

30 44. A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said housing further comprises one or more light sources positioned around said first opening,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause said one or more light sources around said first opening to emit light when said first display is generated on said first portion of said display unit.

5           45.     A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said housing comprises a main housing portion and a panel removably coupled to said main housing portion.

          46.     A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 34, wherein said display unit comprises a flat panel display unit.

10          47.     A gaming system comprising a plurality of gaming apparatuses as defined in claim 34, said gaming apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of gaming apparatuses.